

**Sustainable Natural Resource Funding  
Advisory Committee Meeting Summary**

**Urbandale Public Library – Urbandale, IA  
12:45p – 4:45p      September 10, 2007**

Committee members present:

Mark	Ackelson	Present	Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Dan	Cohen	Present	IACCB
Dick	Dearden	Absent	IA Senate-Democrat
Barbara	Finch	Absent	Iowa Farm Bureau
Jon	Kruse	Present	Ducks Unlimited
Rich	Leopold	Present	IA Dept of Natural Resources
Lola	Lopes	Present	The Nature Conservancy
Mary	Lundby	Absent	Iowa Senate - Republican
Pauline	Novotny	Present	Izaak Walton League of Iowa
Jane	Clark	Present	Sierra Club
Marian	Riggs-Gelb	Present	Iowa Environmental Council
Henry	Rayhons	Absent	Iowa House of Representatives-Republican
Deb	Ryun	Absent	Conservation Districts of Iowa
Marvin	Shirley	Present	Farmers Union
Ken	Tow	Present	Secretary of Agriculture
Dave	Van Waus	Absent	Pheasants Forever
John	Whitaker	Absent	IA House of Representatives-Democrat
tbd		Replacement Pending	Iowa Renewable Fuels Association

Committee Support Staff

Kim	Rasler	IA DNR / SF Support
Diane	Ford-Shivvers	IA DNR / SF Support
Doug	Harr	IA DNR / SF Support
Peter	Fritzell	IA DNR / SF Support
Dan	Otto	ISU/CARD

Public present:

Deb	Kozel	LSA
Jennifer	Filipiak	TNC

**WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS, INTRODUCTIONS – RICH LEOPOLD**

Rich welcomed the committee to the meeting and introductions were made.

**INTERIM COMMITTEE (IC) UPDATE – RICH LEOPOLD, PETER FRITZELL**

The Interim Committee is scheduled to meet on 11/01/07 and 11/02/07. Any SFC that can attend would be a great show of support. SFC support staff (Diane Ford-Shivvers

and Kim Rasler) will work with the IC and their staff to assist with any information or coordination they may need.

The funding requests presented to the IC for the economic impact study through CARD and peer panel have been approved by the Legislative Council.

#### Peer Panel Update

Peter Fritzell and Angela Grove have been working to identify legislators and key individuals from other states to recommend to the IC. Mark Ackelson will assist with coordinating a possible person from Colorado.

The SFC agreed to review and evaluate the list of peers. Once compiled by Peter, Kim will send the list to the SFC for review and those who want to respond will have two days to voice an opinion regarding the selection.

The peer recommendations will be submitted to Tim McDermott, IC staff, with an offer to assist with any coordinating of the peer panel.

#### General Discussion

The SFC discussed the benefits of the panel and would like to try and coordinate some of their time while they are here to speak to issues and questions related to the work and role of the SFC. This discussion would be very beneficial to provide ideas and direction on how to tailor the process to meet Iowa's needs.

Some topics and questions to discuss would be:

- How did the state arrive at the funding mechanism they chose?

- Why did they discard other funding mechanism ideas?

- What enables local government?

- What incentives are provided to landowners?

- What advocacy issues regarding the role of the SF Coalition did they discover/address?

- What was the cost (time, money, etc.) of their campaign?

- How did they address issues of the multiple aspects of our natural resource categories (ie agricultural legislation)?

#### Economic Impact Study/CARD Update

Dan Otto, ISU, presented an example of what the Iowa report would look like.

The report can be found at: <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/admin/NiemeReport.pdf>.

The report is expected to be drafted by the end of October for SFC review and completed, which will include an executive summary, by the beginning of November.

Dan O. will be pulling together many different resources to complete the report. All SFC members are encouraged to contact Peter Fritzell with any possible resources Dan O. can use in the report and Peter will forward them to Dan O.

It was suggested to Dan O. to include data/figures on what would be the cost if we do not do anything, of which he said he will work to include cost parameters. Dan O. noted that other data will be able to be extrapolated from the report (ie addressing the public health aspect).

## **DISCUSSION/DECISIONS:**

### Funding Mechanisms (FM)

The SFC discussed information from Deb Kozel re FMs researched that would bring in \$150M:

- A fractional sales tax at 3/8% would fully fund \$150M. (This tax is on all sales.)
- Gambling admissions for FY 2007 included \$7.4 million to racetracks and \$15.1 million to riverboats for a total of \$22.5 million. A \$7.00 gambling admission generates \$150.0 million.
- A severance tax range of \$0.15 per gallon on ethanol that is exported out of Iowa would generate \$150.0 million. This is based on the 2006 production of 1.5 billion gallons and an export rate of 65.0%. Estimated production for 2007 is 1.7 billion gallons and that would decrease the tax to \$0.14 per gallon.

All of these alternatives may require a constitutional amendment to protect the funds.

Also discussed was information regarding water quantity use. It was noted that there are some nuances to consider, such as high and low water users, different kinds of users, and different kinds of profit margins. Figures of water quantity use as a viable FM need to be evaluated, as well as what that figure would look like after taking out public water supplies.

Pros and cons of the FMs were discussed, as well as the viability of combining FMs or focusing on the viability of one FM.

### Funding Vehicles

The SFC small groups will continue to work on their breakdown of what affect \$150M will have on our resources in relation to the Funding Vehicles.

### NEXT MEETING

Date/Time: Wednesday, 10/17/07 9a-1p

Location: Ames – place TBD